

# THE ESTANCIA NEWS

VOLUME VI.

ESTANCIA, TORRANCE COUNTY, NEW MEXICO, FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 1900

NUMBER 12.

## WOULD RAISE VALUATION OF PROPERTY

Thus Reducing Tax Rate and at the same time Equalize Burden of Taxation

## RESOLUTIONS OF ATTORNEYS

The district attorneys, called together by Governor Curry to look into the matter of more equal assessment of property for the purposes of taxation throughout the territory, made a report on Monday of this week, embodying in a set of resolutions the opinion that assessed valuations throughout the territory were altogether too low, and that the beginning of a general raise should be made by the Territorial Board of Equalization, which has the fixing of the valuation on all railroads, telegraph, telephone and other property of that class. The district attorneys pledge themselves to see that the rest of the work is done, if this start is made by the Board.

The resolutions are printed below in full:

Whereas, all classes of property in New Mexico are generally and systematically undervalued in the assessments for purposes of taxation in all of the counties in the territory, and in the greater part of them not over one-third,

And, Whereas, such undervaluation of property for the purposes of taxation necessarily entails a correspondingly higher tax rate, which tends to discredit the territory generally with all persons living beyond its limits, and to discourage immigration, the investment of capital and the development of the resources of New Mexico and creates a false impression as to our wealth and taxation; and

Whereas, a systematic assessment of all such property at its full cash value in accordance with the statute would in no way increase the burden upon the taxpayer, as a higher valuation would be followed by a proportionately lower tax rate; therefore

Resolved, that the only complete and satisfactory remedy for the present condition of general undervaluation of property throughout the territory for the purposes of taxation, is to be found in the strict enforcement of the statute which requires the assessment of property at its full cash value.

Resolved, Further, as the statute of the territory commits to the territorial board of equalization the fixing of the valuation for the purposes of taxation upon all property belonging to railroad, telegraph, telephone and sleeping car companies doing business within the territory, that it is the duty of that board to fix such valuation of such property at its full cash value, and until and unless said board will so fix the valuation of said property it is impossible, without gross injustice to other taxpayers, to fix the value of other taxable property in the territory at its full cash value as the law requires of all county assessors, and the said board is urged and recommended to comply with its duty in this regard.

Resolved, Further, if the territorial board of equalization at its next meeting shall fairly and

properly perform its duty in fixing the valuation upon property above referred to, as required by law, that every district attorney in the territory will make it his duty to see that the assessors and boards of county commissioners fully comply with the law in assessing all other property at its full cash value, and in the discharge of that duty, the district attorneys, in case of failure on the part of the county officers, will institute the necessary proceedings in the district courts for the removal of the offending officers.

Resolved, Further, that the attorney general, and the district attorney residing at Santa Fe, are hereby appointed and constituted a committee to present these resolutions to the board of equalization at its meeting on January 10, 1910, with a view to securing the action herein outlined.

Whereas, the county assessor is required by section 4032 of the compiled law of 1897, between the first day of March and the first day of May each year, to ascertain the names of all taxable inhabitants and all property in his county subject to taxation; and that to this end he shall visit each precinct in his county and exact from each person a statement in writing showing his property subject to taxation, and to file with the lists of each precinct his affidavit stating when he visited each precinct, how long he remained there attending to his official duties, and that each assessment was made from the original lists and personal knowledge and not taken from any previous lists; therefore,

Resolved, that any failure or neglect on the part of any assessor fully to comply with the requirements of said section, constitutes a proper ground for his removal from office and that the district attorney of his county shall institute proceedings looking to that end.

Resolved, that, in every case in which a person liable to taxation shall knowingly make a false list of his property, for the purpose of avoiding any proper assessment of taxes, it is the duty of the district attorney to present the evidence to the grand jury with a view to indicting the offender for perjury under the provisions of section 4036 of the Compiled Laws of 1897.

Resolved, that the attention of every probate clerk and assessor in the territory, be, by the district attorney of his county, called to the requirements of the amendment to section 3956 of the Compiled Laws of 1897, contained in section 1 of Chapter 22 of the laws of 1899, and upon failure or neglect of either of said officers to comply with the provisions of said section, that the proper district attorney file a criminal information against the offender, and also institute proceedings looking to his removal from office.

Resolved, that it is the duty of all district attorneys to attend, in person or by deputy, every meeting of boards of county commissioners when sitting as boards of equalization, there to make every possible effort to see that assessments are made, and equalized according to law, and in every instance of failure or refusal by such boards properly to discharge their duties, to take an appeal on behalf of the territorial board of equalization.

Resolved, that in case of failure on the part of the treasurer and ex-officio collector of any county to advertise the delinquent tax list as required by sec-

## URNS DOWN RESOLUTIONS

After Hearing Arguments of Attorneys for Railroads, Board Refuses to Act

Santa Fe, N. M., Jan. 10.—The territorial board of equalization, while it took no formal action during its opening session today to all intents and purposes irrevocably turned down the program of the district attorneys, which seeks assessments on the basis of actual value of all property.

The board did not act on the resolutions, which were presented first by Attorney General Clancy and in the afternoon by District Attorney E. C. Abbott; but from the line of inquiry pursued and the expressions of the board from time to time as the argument proceeded, it was entirely plain that the board considers the district attorney's program not only impractical, but likely to lead to even more serious evils in the increase of a mount of taxes levied.

"The district attorneys have come here and told us what to do and how to do it," said Chairman James F. Hinkle after several hours of argument had ensued. "They say the law requires full valuation and demand that it be made, thus completely revolutionizing our present system of taxation. We have been trying all day to get a taxpayer to say straightout that the proposed change is a good one under present conditions. Even the district attorneys admit there is danger of extravagance over assessment while we, who are more or less familiar with this taxation business, through years of experience, fear and with reason that not only corporations, but individuals as well would go into court if assessed on the basis of full valuation and that our sources of revenue would be cut off. The experiment is one which we consider too dangerous to try."—Journal.

## Baptist Services

The First Baptist Church of Estancia will hold a conference meeting on Saturday, January 22nd, at 11 a. m., to transact important business, part of which is the calling of a pastor for this year.

The missionary of the Central Baptist Association, Rev. W. C. Grant will probably be present. He will also preach both morning and evening on Sunday, January 23rd. All members are requested to be present, and all who will are cordially invited to attend.

C. L. Riley, is one of the most successful farmers in the valley. He is hauling stable manure from town. That is a sure sign of a farmer. He sold \$128.70 of cabbage last fall, from a quarter of an acre of ground. He sold over a thousand dollars worth of produce last year, besides what he kept for his own use.

tion 15 and 16 of Chapter 22 of the laws of 1899, at least once in each year, and to strike off to the county as purchaser all property for which there is no purchaser, in good faith, and to deliver a certificate of such sale to the county treasurer, as required by section 22 of said chapter, the district attorney of such county will institute proceedings under chapter 36 of the laws of 1909 to secure the removal of such treasurer from office.

## MURRAY IN ESTANCIA

Receiver of Central Makes Trip over Road Inspecting the Properties

The news of the appointment of a receiver for the New Mexico Central has been received in Estancia as a harbinger of a new era in things connected with the road. Every man interviewed on the subject expressed himself as pleased with the situation, as almost all were of the opinion that it meant not only better service at this time, but also the beginning of better things throughout. Almost all remembered that only about twelve years ago the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe was forced into the hands of a receiver, which proved the commencement of the upbuilding of that road. Some were of the opinion that the road would soon pass into the hands of one of the older and stronger systems, while others were inclined to believe that with the business on a firm footing the road would at once begin to build up. "Whichever may be true, it cannot be gainsaid that the receivership will prove a blessing to the great Estancia Valley, which is the principal thing in the end."

On Wednesday a special carrying C. G. Murray, recently appointed receiver; H. A. Comer, General Manager; H. Lantry, Civil Engineer and Contractor, and J. B. Farwell, Chief Engineer of the road, came down from Santa Fe, inspecting the road. Although these gentlemen were very reticent, it is rumored that their movements are merely preliminary to some definite action on the part of capitalists, who are waiting for the proper figures to purchase the holdings.

Among the rumors afloat is one to the effect that the Denver & Rio Grande is after the property intending to standard gauge its tracks from Antonito, Colorado, to Santa Fe, and use the Central to Torrance. Then by building a little over a hundred miles to Roswell, secure an outlet to the Gulf, for southern traffic. Another rumor is to the effect that the Rock Island is laying for the Central. The Rock Island's western terminus is Santa Rosa, and while it has a traffic arrangement with the El Paso Southwestern, this will expire within something like two years. This would give ample time to connect Santa Rosa and the Central properties, which would in all probability be at Estancia on account of the unlimited supply of pure water here. The uncompleted line through Tijeras Canon would then give the Rock Island an outlet to the west. Which ever is to be, will benefit the valley, so, let 'em come.

## Double Wedding

On Monday morning at the house of Celestino Ortiz, Rev. Father Eessett, of Santa Fe, joined in marriage Manuel Sanchez y Benavides and Miss Lucia Aragon, and Francisco Gomez and Miss Juana Mirabal. All are well known among Estancians and the News joins many friends in wishing for them a long and prosperous married life.

Conductor E. E. Friday of the New Mexico Central is still limping a little caused by a sprained ankle, he received at Torrance.

## Bring them Along

H. B. Hening, secretary of the bureau of immigration, was here a few days this week on immigration business. Mr. Hening recently returned from Chicago where he has been on immigration business. While in Chicago he succeeded in interesting a colony of Swedes in this territory and is looking for a suitable location for the colony.

If a sufficient acreage can be obtained in the Estancia Valley it is probable that the colony will settle there, but if a suitable location cannot be had there the colonists will likely locate in northern Eddy county.

Mr. Hening believes that the immigration to the territory will be large this year and that there will be a demand for every acre of irrigable land in the territory. Land men in the east are taking a more lively interest in the territory than ever before and, all things considered, the outlook for a largely increased population in the territory before the end of the year is bright. —Eagle.

## 'B. Y. P. U. Program

1. Song.
  2. Scripture Reading: Luke 5:1-11.
  3. Song.
  4. Prayer.
  5. Bible Readings.
  6. The Need of Educated Ministers.—Mrs. Richards.
  7. What We Owe to Our Pastors.—Mrs. Fred Tuttle.
  8. Why Should the Ministry Appeal to a Young Man.—Mr. Fred Tuttle.
  9. How Does God Call Us Into the Ministry.—Rev. Carver.
  10. Song.
  11. Dismissal.
- Leader, Lella L. Laws.

## woodman Installation

The local lodge, Modern Woodmen of America will hold a public installation of officers at Woodmen Hall on next Monday night, the affair being in connection with the installation of the officers of the Royal Neighbors of America, the auxiliary lodge. A feast is on tap, and a general good time is promised all members and their friends. All members will please take notice and arrange to be present.

## Shooting at Willard

A shooting is reported to have occurred at Willard on Monday night of this week, in which a fellow named Gomez was wounded in the thigh. As the story reached us, it appears that a wedding had occurred and some of the guests, having imbibed too freely of Willard's famous water, became exuberant and started in to shoot up the town in regular wild west fashion. One of the bullets entered a house in which Gomez was, inflicting a serious wound in the fleshy part of the thigh. Candido Padilla is reported as having been arrested and given a hearing but was released. Padilla's home is in Manzano, he having been probate clerk of the county from 1907 to 1909.

Thomas Long and P. M. Rutherford were transacting business in Estancia yesterday. Both will hereafter read the best paper published in Torrance county.

## MURRAY TAKES CHARGE OF N. M. CENTRAL

Appointed Receiver by Judge J. R. McFie on Application Creditors

## DEAL FOR SALE RUMORED PENDING

Santa Fe, N. M., Jan. 10.—The New Mexico Central railroad passed into the hands of a receiver late this evening when Judge John R. McFie granted a petition presented by Attorney E. A. Mann, of the creditors, who represents interests of the Independent Steel and Wire Company, asking that a receiver be named. Other creditors were represented by Neill B. Field and H. B. Ferguson, of Albuquerque, and Fred P. Wendt, of Pittsburg, while E. W. Dobson, of Albuquerque, and Charles F. Easley, represented the railroad company. There were a number of candidates for the position of receiver, but Judge McFie on representations of counsel for the creditors, selected and appointed Charles G. Murray, an attorney of Pittsburg, who has been connected with the work of the bondholders committee since the negotiations for an adjustment began.

"The receivership," said a member of the railroad company yesterday, "was considered necessary in order to bring about a prompt adjustment of the affairs of the road, so that a sale might be effected. We do not expect the receivership to continue for long and we do expect the sale of the property to go through very soon."

It is learned here today that Charles J. Lantry, of the Lantry contracting company, whose name has been frequently connected with the reconstruction operations, arrived in Albuquerque today. Mr. Lantry is in New Mexico representing the parties who propose to purchase the road, or a controlling interest in it, and is expected to be here for several days in connection with the negotiations, which it is freely predicted tonight will result in the successful financing of the road, its completion into Albuquerque and the building of even more important connections.

It is impossible to find out who the parties are that Lantry represents. One rumor credits it to Rock Island connections, another says it is Pennsylvania, while a third says that the Stone interests, of Warren, Pa., who recently purchased the Baca tract, are behind the proposed re-organization.

The appointment of a receiver followed a legal struggle occupying the entire afternoon. The attorneys of the several interests held a meeting shortly after lunch at which the receivership was practically determined upon. The arguments upon the appointment occupied Judge McFie's attention until late this evening. —Journal.

W. W. Conditt, wife and daughter returned last evening from Idaho, where they have spent the past year. Mr. Conditt has concluded that the valley is good enough for him, and will again go to farming, raising potatoes and beans on his farm southwest of Estancia.